

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

May 21, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. JULIE HECKMAN AND SIMONE MILLER

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today the May 20, 2004 arrest of Julie Heckman, 19, of Gates, New York, and Simone Miller, 20, of Rochester, New York. A Criminal Complaint charging the two women with one count of bank robbery was also filed on May 20, 2004. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.00.

It should be noted that “the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.” **(Disciplinary Rule 7-107(B)(6))**.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison P. Gioia, who will handle the case, stated that the Criminal Complaint charges the two women with the May 10, 2004 robbery of the HSBC Bank branch located at 1510 South Park Avenue (corner of Abbott Road), Buffalo, New

York. Approximately \$27,000 was taken from the bank during the robbery. Defendant Heckman's two year old child was in the car at the time of the robbery. After the robbery, defendant Miller rode back to Rochester hiding in the trunk of the Lincoln automobile used as the getaway car. Upon returning to Rochester, the two women divided up the proceeds of the robbery.

Ms. Gioia further stated that information received from a confidential informant on May 19, 2004 led to the arrest of the two women. Based on the information received from the confidential informant, search warrants were executed and among the items seized were bank wrappers used to wrap the cash by the HSBC Bank branch located at 1510 South Park Avenue.

In a court appearance today, United States Magistrate Judge Leslie G. Foschio ordered that Ms. Heckman remain in the custody of the United States Marshal pending further proceedings scheduled for June 8, 2004. Also today, Judge Foschio ordered that Ms. Miller remain in custody pending a detention hearing scheduled for May 27, 2004.

The arrests were the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn and the Gates Police Department.

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